

Washington, D.C. 20505

11 June 1982

Dear Mr. President,

Yesterday the Senate passed the Identities Act, imposing the first criminal sanctions on flagrant abuses of national security information since the Espionage Act of 1917. There were only four dissenting votes: Mathias and three aspiring presidential candidates, Hart, Biden and Moynihan. Several weeks ago, during final Senate roll call vote on the Bill itself, Moynihan changed his vote three times -- first yes, then no, then yes, and finally no -- clearly in the midst of an epic struggle for his soul between himself and The New York Times.

The Intelligence Community has high hopes that you will be willing to pay a visit to Langley to sign the Bill. It would be very important to us because:

- The Act sends signal around the world to allies and liaison services that the Administration is serious about protecting its intelligence officers, agents, and relationships. It will immeasurably help us do our job.
- Your signing the Bill on grounds here will significantly reinforce the message and underline your personal support of the Bill and your intelligence service.
- It should take no more than an hour of your time, any day next week, or possibly a day or two later, if within the ten days after the Bill is received at the White House.
- This public demonstration of Presidential support would be a great morale boost for CIA employees and the whole Intelligence Community.
- It would be an opportunity for you to say something in support of relief from the Freedom of Information Act. I have become convinced that an effective intelligence service will not be able to co-exist for long with the worldwide perception that arises from hostile foreign countries and anyone else having a license to poke into our files.

Respectfully yours,

  
William J. Casey

The President  
The White House